

# Safety Alert



## **Safety Alert SA05-001 Motorcycle Safety**

This past weekend the Division lost another soldier to an off-duty accident. This is the fourth NCO that was killed while operating a motorcycle and it must be the last. Although the circumstances surrounding this accident are not yet known speed may have been a factor in the severity of his injuries.

All soldiers and leaders must know, understand, and enforce the 4ID Motorcycle Safety Policy, Sep 04. These standards are not negotiable on or off duty. Failure to follow regulations and policies is the wrong choice for any reason.

### **FACTS:**

- Wearing reflective/florescent clothing will lower the chances of an accident by 37%.
- Wearing a white or bright color helmet will lower the chance of an accident by 24%.
- Turning on your headlight will lower the chance of an accident by 27%.
- Most accidents occurred in urban environments.

Studies show that low observability is a contributing factor in a significant proportion of motorcycle accidents. The accident preventive measures mentioned above are simple and cheap interventions that could considerably reduce the chances of having an accident and the severity of the injuries.

The social costs of motorcycle deaths and disability are high, not only through premature deaths and hospital admissions but also through the costs of rehabilitation, lost income, lost benefits, lost combat power, insurance, property, and legal expenses as well as personal/family costs of grief and suffering.

As soldiers we must perform continual assessments of our situations, both on and off duty. Ask yourself; what out there will hurt/kill my buddies or me? If something is wrong don't let it happen. Do not tolerate undesirable behaviors and take care of each other.